

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX, AO, CU

SUBJ: ECHEVERRIA ON ANGOLA

REF: MEXICO 0916

1. AT A JOINT NEWS CONFERENCE WITH PM TRUDEAU OF CANADA JANUARY 25, PRES. ECHEVERRIA DENOUNCED BOTH SUPERPOWERS FOR INTERVENING IN ANGOLA BUT MADE NO MENTION OF CUBA. SITUATION IN ANGOLA, HE SAID -- LIKE THAT IN MIDDLE EAST AND IN KOREA AND VIETNAM BEFORE -- CAN ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD IN TERMS OF UNENDING SUPERPOWER STRUGGLE FOR NUCLEAR AND ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE, AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN FRAGILE NUCLEAR UNBRELLA BREAKS AND ONE OR THE OTHER ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE ITS HEGEMONY IN THIRD WORLD.

2. MEXICO, HE CONTINUED, HAD NO INTENTION OF "INTERVENING" IN ANGOLA. IT HAD SUFFERED ITS OWN SHARE OF INTERVENTIONS, AND IT WISHED EVERYONE WOULD STAY OUT OF ANGOLA AND ALLOW THAT NATION TO FOLLOW ITS OWN INDEPENDENT ROUTE. UNFORTUNATELY, HE CONTINUED, PRESSURES ON THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TO SIDE WITH ONE OR ANOTHER SUPERPOWER WERE ENORMOUS, ALMOST IRRESISTIBLE. BUT MEXICO WOULD NOT TAKE EASY WAY OUT; IT WOULD OPPOSE INTERVENTION AND MAINTAIN ITS
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OWN INDEPENDENCE.

3. COMMENT: QUESTION WAS FED TO ECHEVERRIA BY (CUBAN) PRENSA LATINA REPORTER WHO SET HIM UP TO MAKE DISTINCTION BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICAN "INVASION" AND CUBAN TROOPS "CALLED IN BY ANGOLAN GOVT TO AID IN DEFENDING THEIR YOUR REPUBLIC." FONSEC GARCIA ROBLES HAD SUGGESTED JUST SUCH AN INVIDIOUS DISTINCTION IN COMMENTS TO PRESS JANUARY 21 (REFTEL). HOWEVER, EHCEVERRIA IGNORED THE NEWSMAN'S SUGGESTION AND CHOSE INSTEAD TO LAY THE BLAME SQUARELY ON GREAT POWER MACHINATIONS.

4. EHCEVERRIA DID NOT ADDRESS REPORTER'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER MEXICO WOULD "RECOGNIZE" MPLA GOVERNMENT, BUT HIS POX-ON-BOTH-YOUR-HOUSES ANALYSIS IMPLIED LESS INCLINATION TO TAKE SIDES IN ANGLOA THAN HAD GARCIA ROBLES. THOMPSON

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